August 31st, 2022

Subject: Cybercriminals using Caller ID Spoofing to perpetrate Cyber Crime.

Threat Summary

Caller ID Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Caller ID is changed to any number other than the actual calling number.

Fraudsters often use Caller ID Spoofing to spoof a number from a company or a government agency that their targets may already know and trust. They use scam scripts to try to steal your money or valuable personal information, which can be used in fraudulent activity.

Fig. 01 – Caller ID Spoofing

Modus Operandi

- Fraudsters make phone calls to their targets using Caller ID Spoofing (or Phone number spoofing), that displays the Caller ID as though it's coming from a government agency, business, or even someone in target's contact list in an attempt to trick the target victim into answering the call.
- Fraudulent callers use spoofing to impersonate bank officials, utility companies, government officials, police, etc.
- Spoofed calls impersonating reputed banks asking for personal info (account numbers, account PINs, etc.), or impersonating e-commerce sites offering gifts cards, or reputed employment websites regarding job offers, etc. are among various techniques used by fraudsters.
- Fraudsters defraud, cause harm or scam victims into providing info that victims' may not otherwise provide over the phone.
- The cybercriminals leverage the stolen sensitive personal/financial information to perpetrate further financial cyber crimes.

Suggestions

- Avoid sharing personal information such as Bank account numbers, Aadhar number, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information on unexpected calls or calls from unknown numbers.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company/bank or a government agency, verify the authenticity of the number on the official website of that company/bank or govt. organisation.
- Scrutinize, if a request seems too urgent, as fraudsters typically show urgency in their requests.
- Be Aware: Caller ID showing a "local" number no longer means it is necessarily a local caller.
- Report any such incidents on the *cybercrime.gov.in* portal and follow *@CyberDost* on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Public, Koo and LinkedIn to know more about safety tips.

Regards,

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